CREATURES ON THE LOOSE
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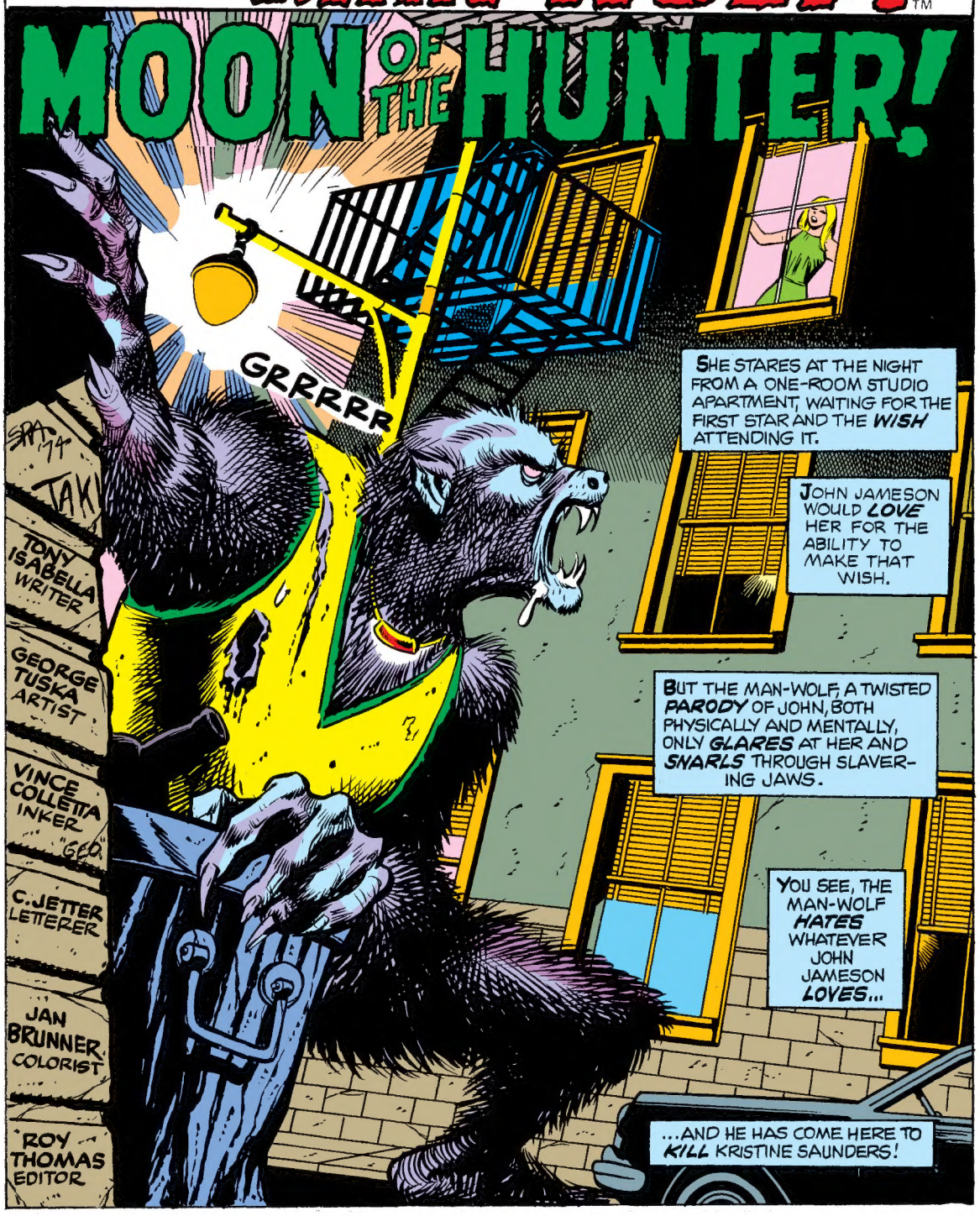
CREATURES ON THE LOOSE™
FEATURING
MAN-WOLF™
IN THE CLUTCHES OF SPIDER-MAN'S FIERCEST FOE--
KRAVEN THE HUNTER!
WHO WILL YOU ROOT FOR, WHEN MONSTER BATTLES SUPER-VILLAIN? DON'T ANSWER--TILL YOU READ THIS ISSUE'S SHOCKER!

John Jameson: astronaut, career soldier, and the son of newspaper mogul, J. Jonah Jameson. John Jameson: *cursed.* For when the rays of the moon touch the pendant that has grafted itself to his throat, John Jameson becomes a beast—a beast whose only desire is to destroy all his human self holds dear!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MAN-WOLF!™

MOON OF THE HUNTER!


GRRRRR
SHE STARES AT THE NIGHT FROM A ONE-ROOM STUDIO APARTMENT, WAITING FOR THE FIRST STAR AND THE WISH ATTENDING IT.
JOHN JAMESON WOULD LOVE HER FOR THE ABILITY TO MAKE THAT WISH.
BUT THE MAN-WOLF, A TWISTED PARODY OF JOHN, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY, ONLY GLARES AT HER AND SNARLS THROUGH SLAVERING JAWS.
YOU SEE, THE MAN-WOLF HATES WHATEVER JOHN JAMESON LOVES...
...AND HE HAS COME HERE TO KILL KRISTINE SAUNDERS!
SPA '74
TAK
TONY ISABELLA WRITER
GEORGE TUSKA ARTIST
VINCE COLLETTA INKER
C. JETTER LETTERER
JAN BRUNNER COLORIST
ROY THOMAS EDITOR

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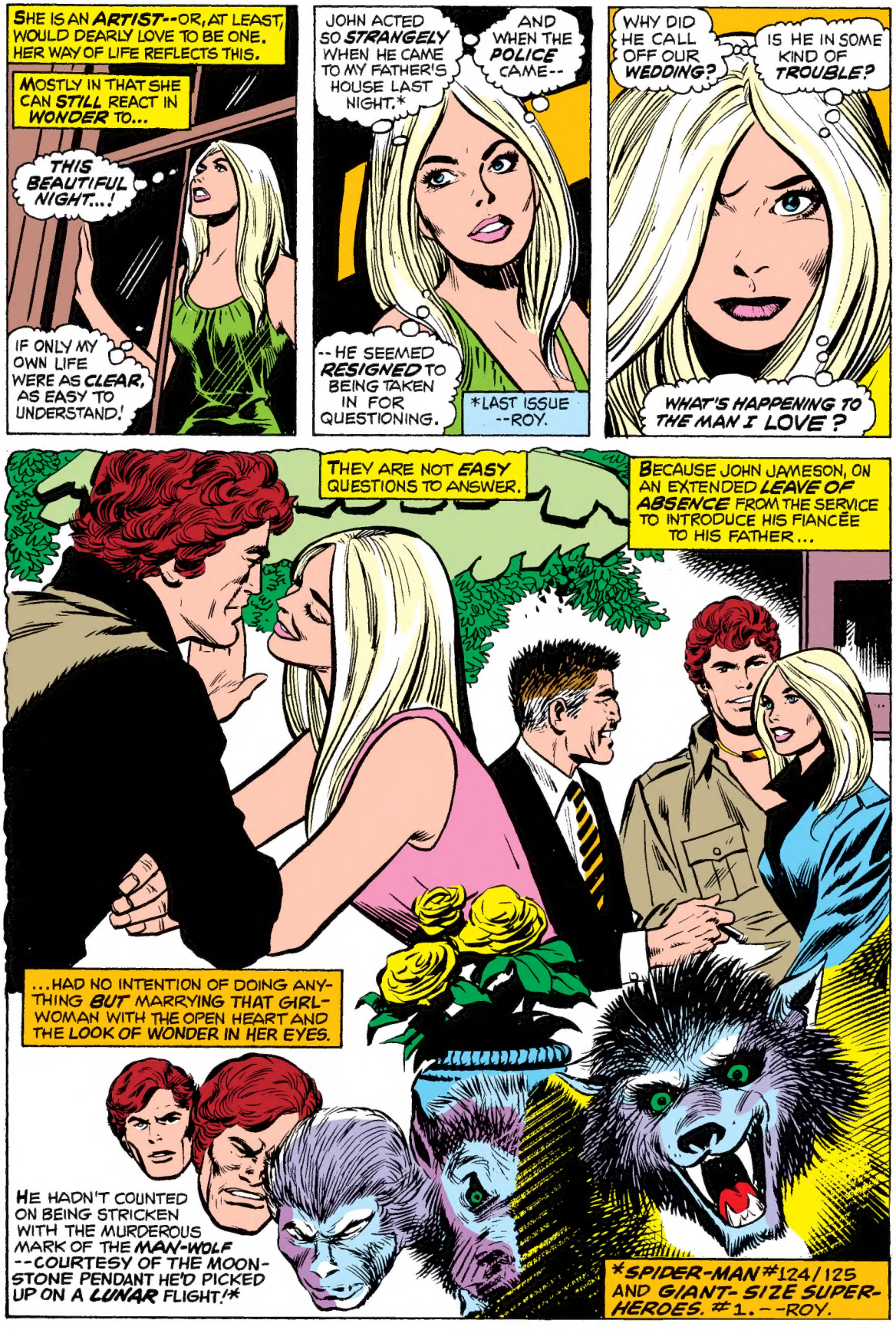
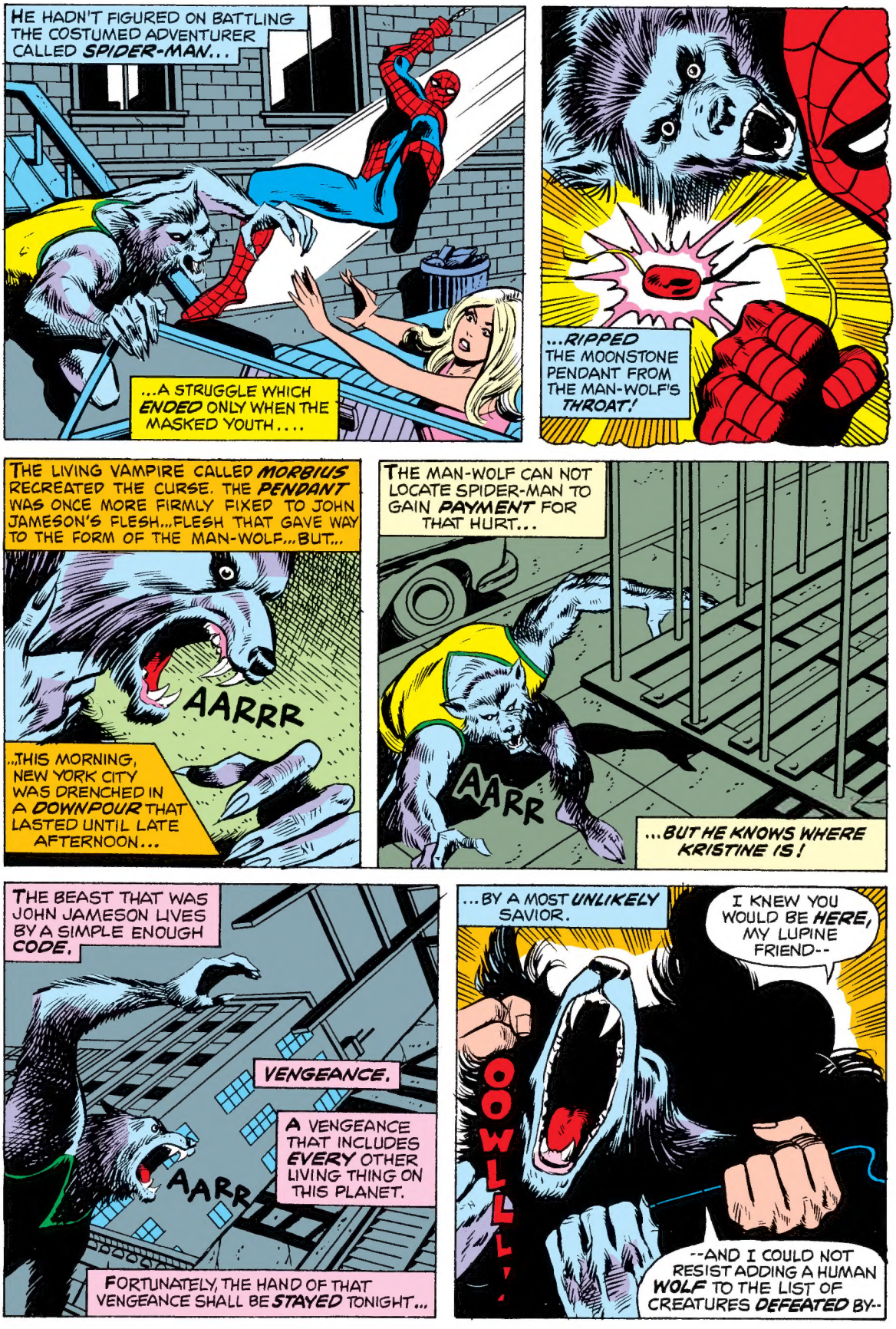
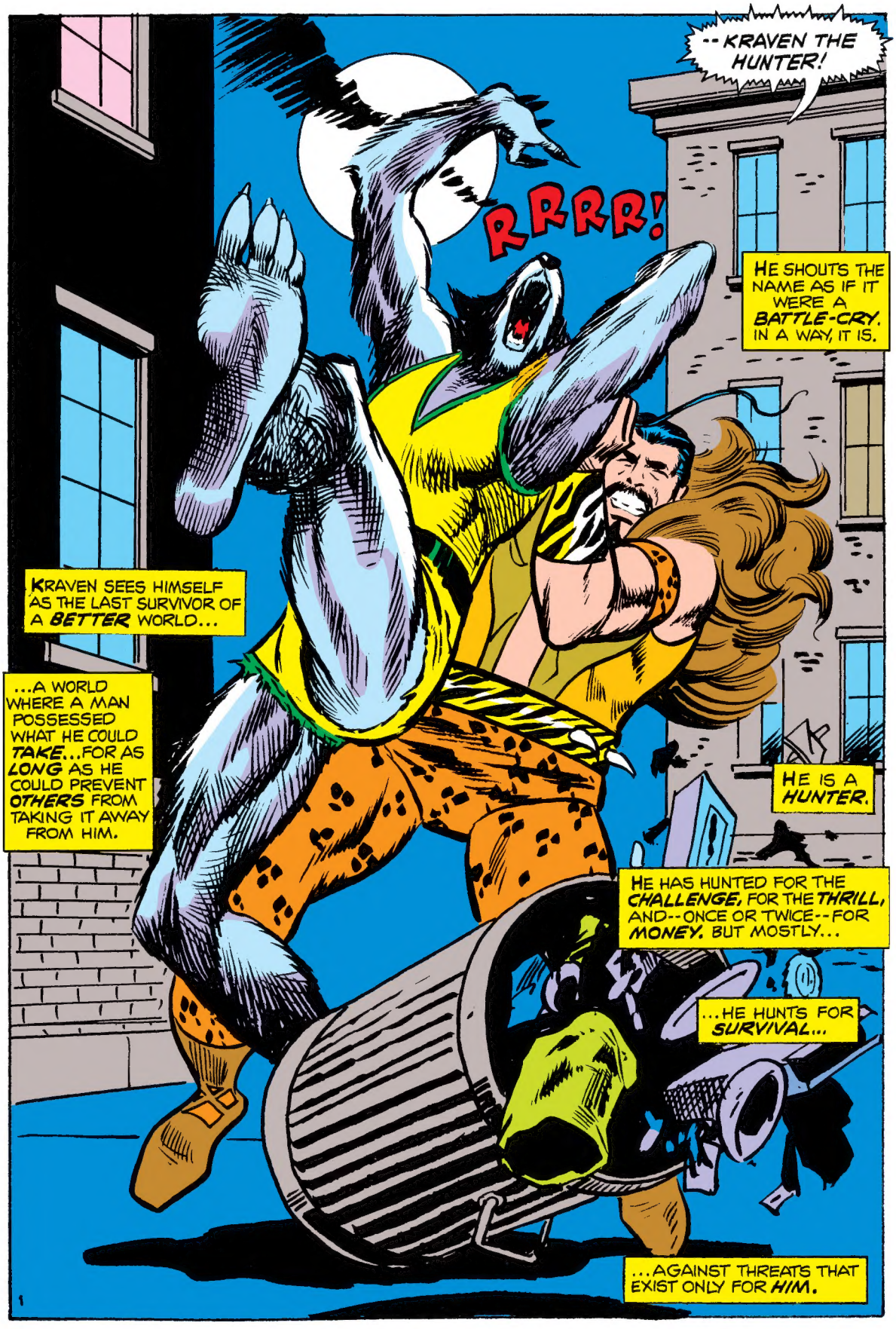
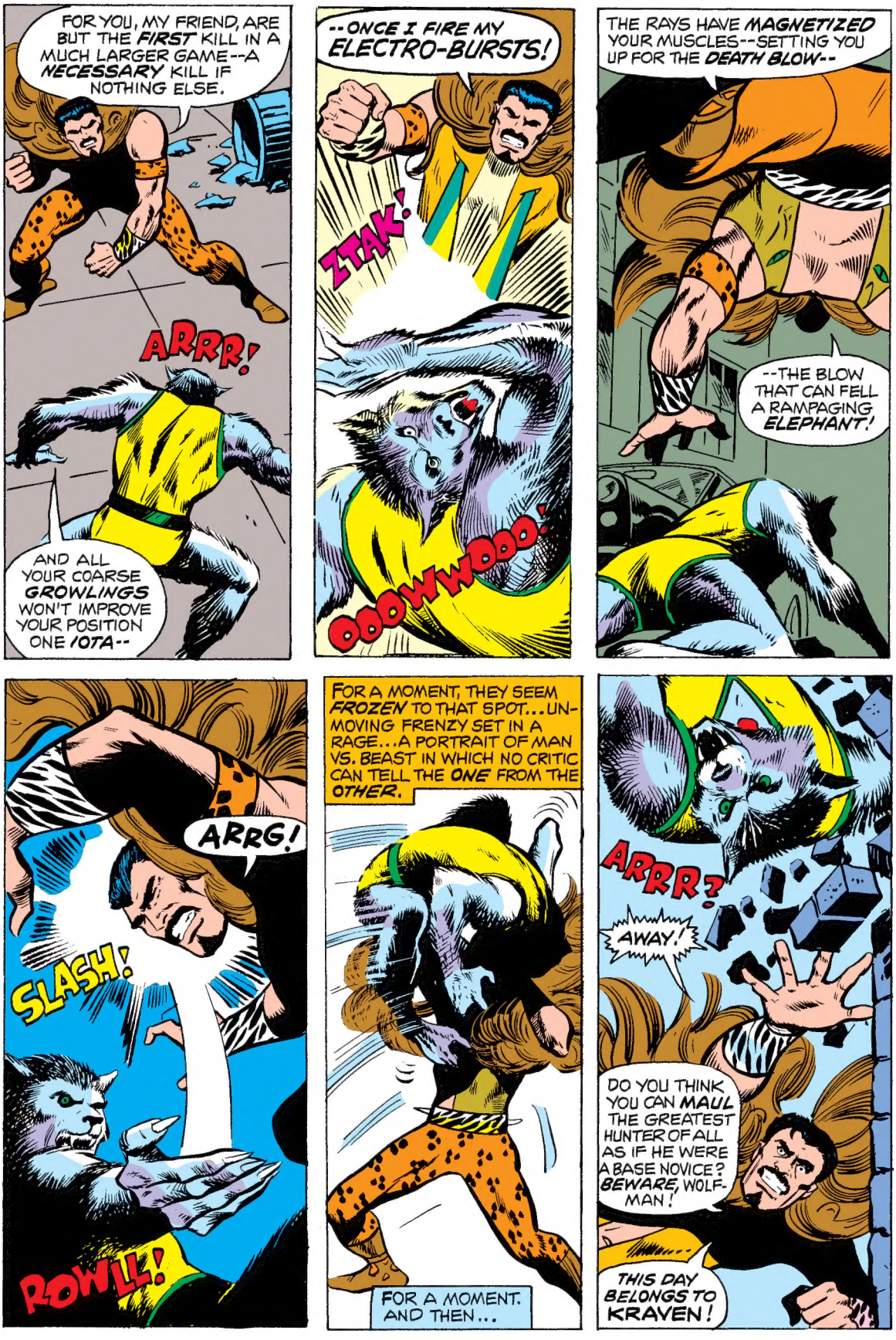
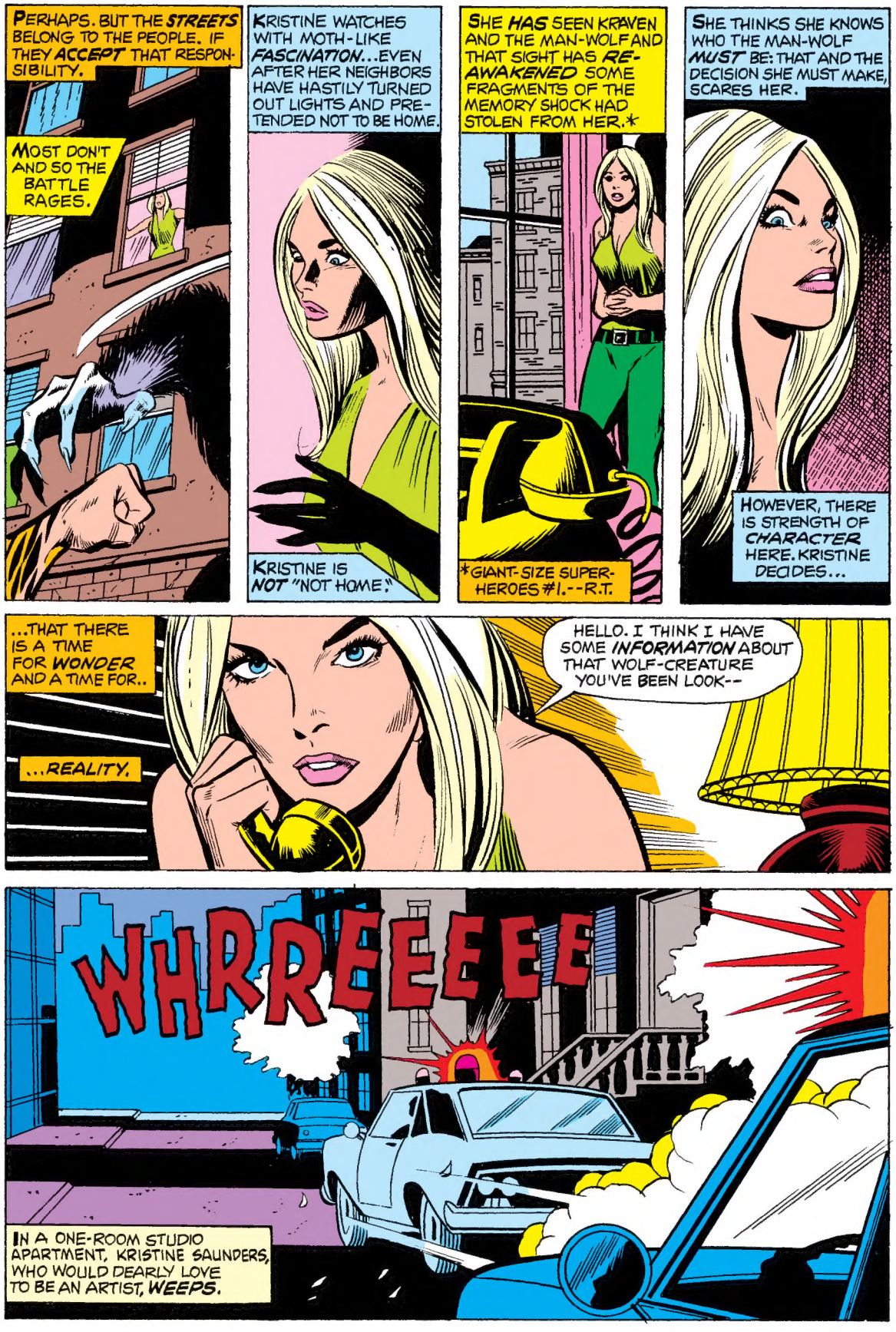

SHE IS AN ARTIST--OR, AT LEAST, WOULD DEARLY LOVE TO BE ONE. HER WAY OF LIFE REFLECTS THIS.
MOSTLY IN THAT SHE CAN STILL REACT IN WONDER TO...
THIS BEAUTIFUL NIGHT...!
IF ONLY MY OWN LIFE WERE AS CLEAR, AS EASY TO UNDERSTAND!
JOHN ACTED SO STRANGELY WHEN HE CAME TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE LAST NIGHT.*
AND WHEN THE POLICE CAME--
--HE SEEMED RESIGNED TO BEING TAKEN IN FOR QUESTIONING.
*LAST ISSUE --ROY.
WHY DID HE CALL OFF OUR WEDDING?
IS HE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE MAN I LOVE?
THEY ARE NOT EASY QUESTIONS TO ANSWER.
BECAUSE JOHN JAMESON, ON AN EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SERVICE TO INTRODUCE HIS FIANCÉE TO HIS FATHER...
...HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING ANYTHING BUT MARRYING THAT GIRL-WOMAN WITH THE OPEN HEART AND THE LOOK OF WONDER IN HER EYES.
HE HADN'T COUNTED ON BEING STRICKEN WITH THE MURDEROUS MARK OF THE MAN-WOLF --COURTESY OF THE MOON-STONE PENDANT HE'D PICKED UP ON A LUNAR FLIGHT!*
*SPIDER-MAN #124/125 AND GIANT-SIZE SUPER-HEROES, #1.--ROY.

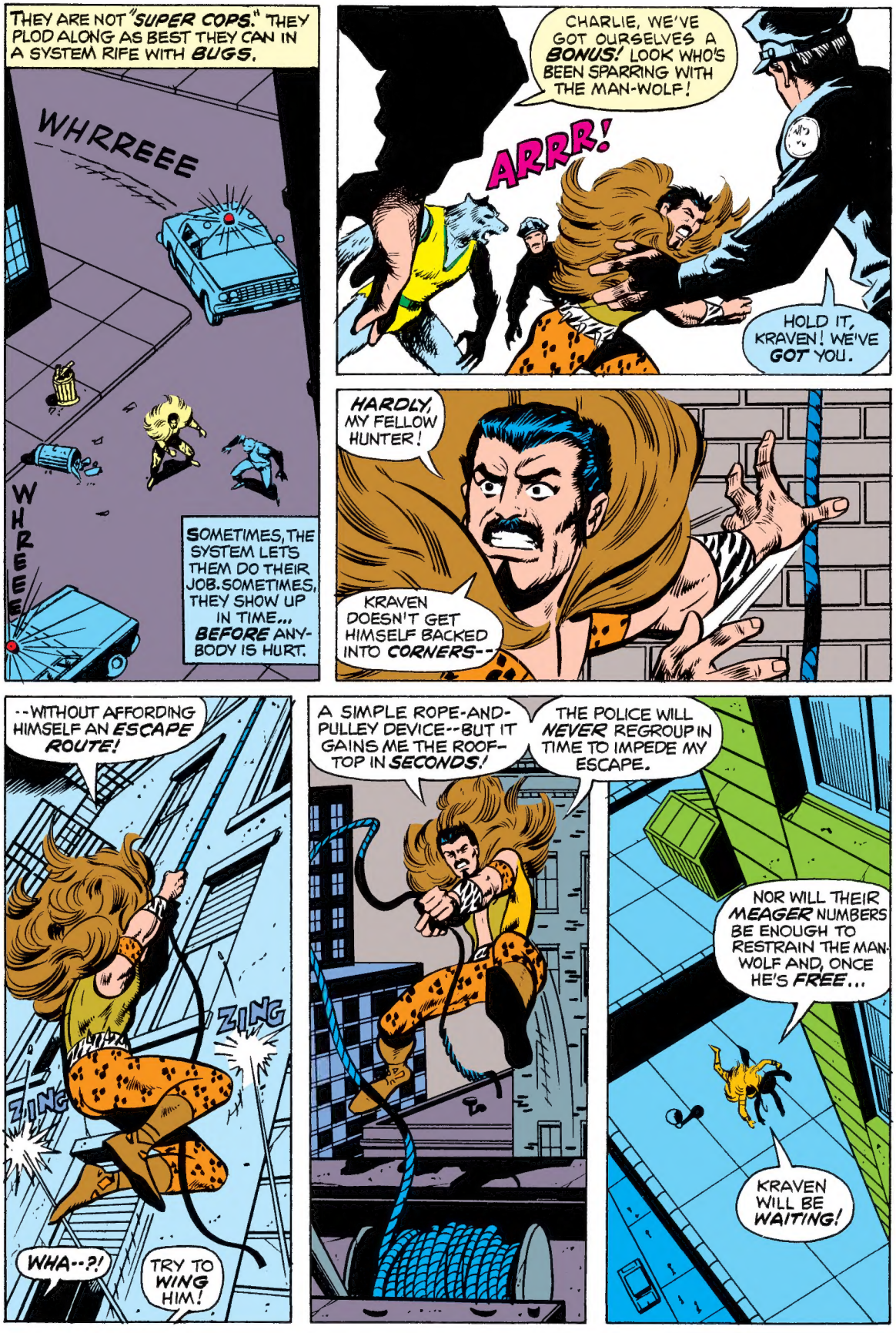

HE HADN'T FIGURED ON BATTLING THE COSTUMED ADVENTURER CALLED SPIDER-MAN...
...A STRUGGLE WHICH ENDED ONLY WHEN THE MASKED YOUTH....
...RIPPED THE MOONSTONE PENDANT FROM THE MAN-WOLF'S THROAT!
THE LIVING VAMPIRE CALLED MORBIUS RECREATED THE CURSE. THE PENDANT WAS ONCE MORE FIRMLY FIXED TO JOHN JAMESON'S FLESH...FLESH THAT GAVE WAY TO THE FORM OF THE MAN-WOLF...BUT...
AARRR
...THIS MORNING, NEW YORK CITY WAS DRENCHED IN A DOWNPOUR THAT LASTED UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON...
THE MAN-WOLF CAN NOT LOCATE SPIDER-MAN TO GAIN PAYMENT FOR THAT HURT...
AARR
...BUT HE KNOWS WHERE KRISTINE IS!
THE BEAST THAT WAS JOHN JAMESON LIVES BY A SIMPLE ENOUGH CODE.
VENGEANCE.
A VENGEANCE THAT INCLUDES EVERY OTHER LIVING THING ON THIS PLANET.
AARR
FORTUNATELY, THE HAND OF THAT VENGEANCE SHALL BE STAYED TONIGHT...
...BY A MOST UNLIKELY SAVIOR.
I KNEW YOU WOULD BE HERE, MY LUPINE FRIEND--
OOWLLL!
--AND I COULD NOT RESIST ADDING A HUMAN WOLF TO THE LIST OF CREATURES DEFEATED BY--

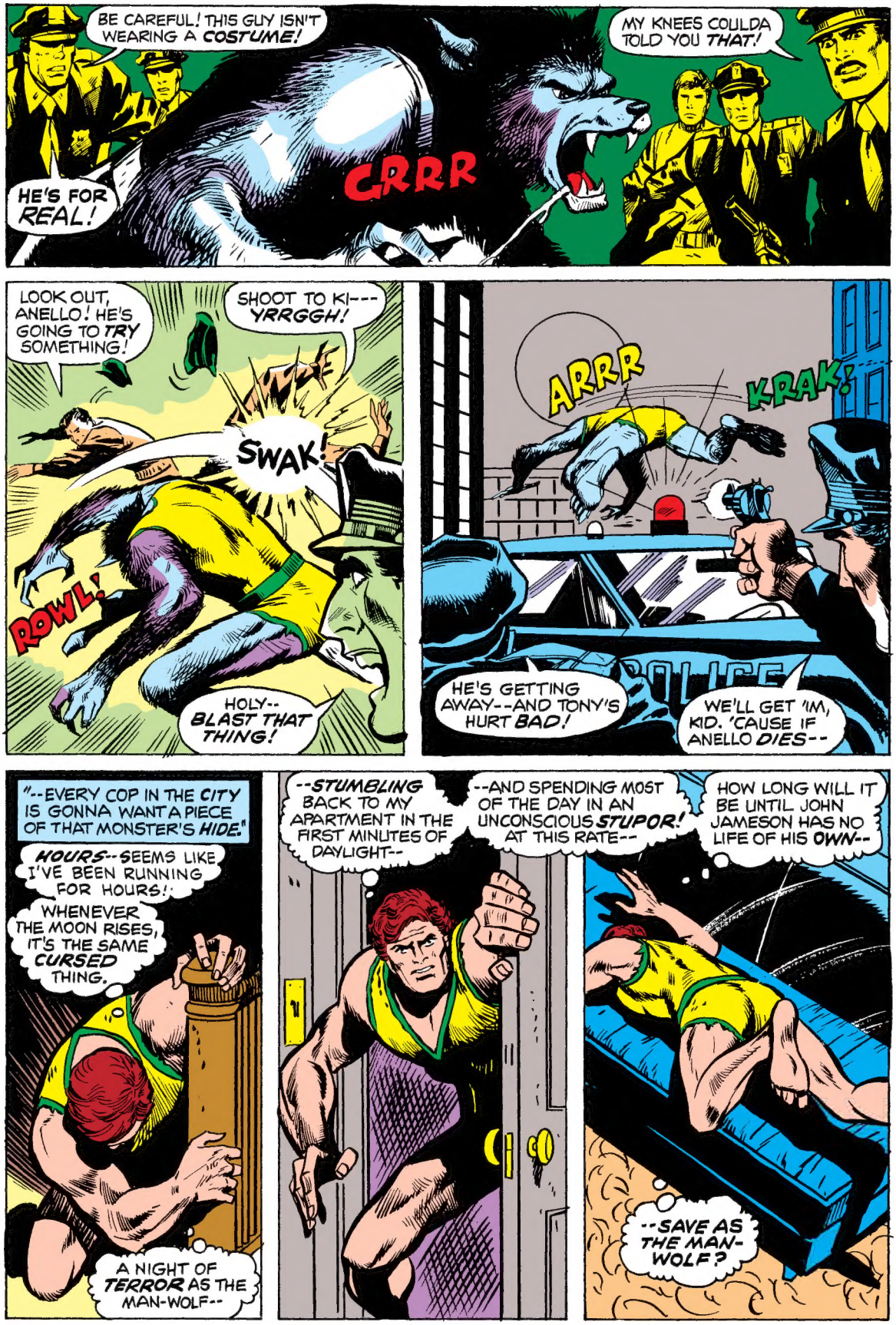

-- KRAVEN THE HUNTER!
RRRR!
HE SHOUTS THE NAME AS IF IT WERE A BATTLE-CRY. IN A WAY, IT IS.
KRAVEN SEES HIMSELF AS THE LAST SURVIVOR OF A BETTER WORLD...
...A WORLD WHERE A MAN POSSESSED WHAT HE COULD TAKE...FOR AS LONG AS HE COULD PREVENT OTHERS FROM TAKING IT AWAY FROM HIM.
HE IS A HUNTER.
HE HAS HUNTED FOR THE CHALLENGE, FOR THE THRILL, AND--ONCE OR TWICE--FOR MONEY. BUT MOSTLY...
...HE HUNTS FOR SURVIVAL...
...AGAINST THREATS THAT EXIST ONLY FOR HIM.

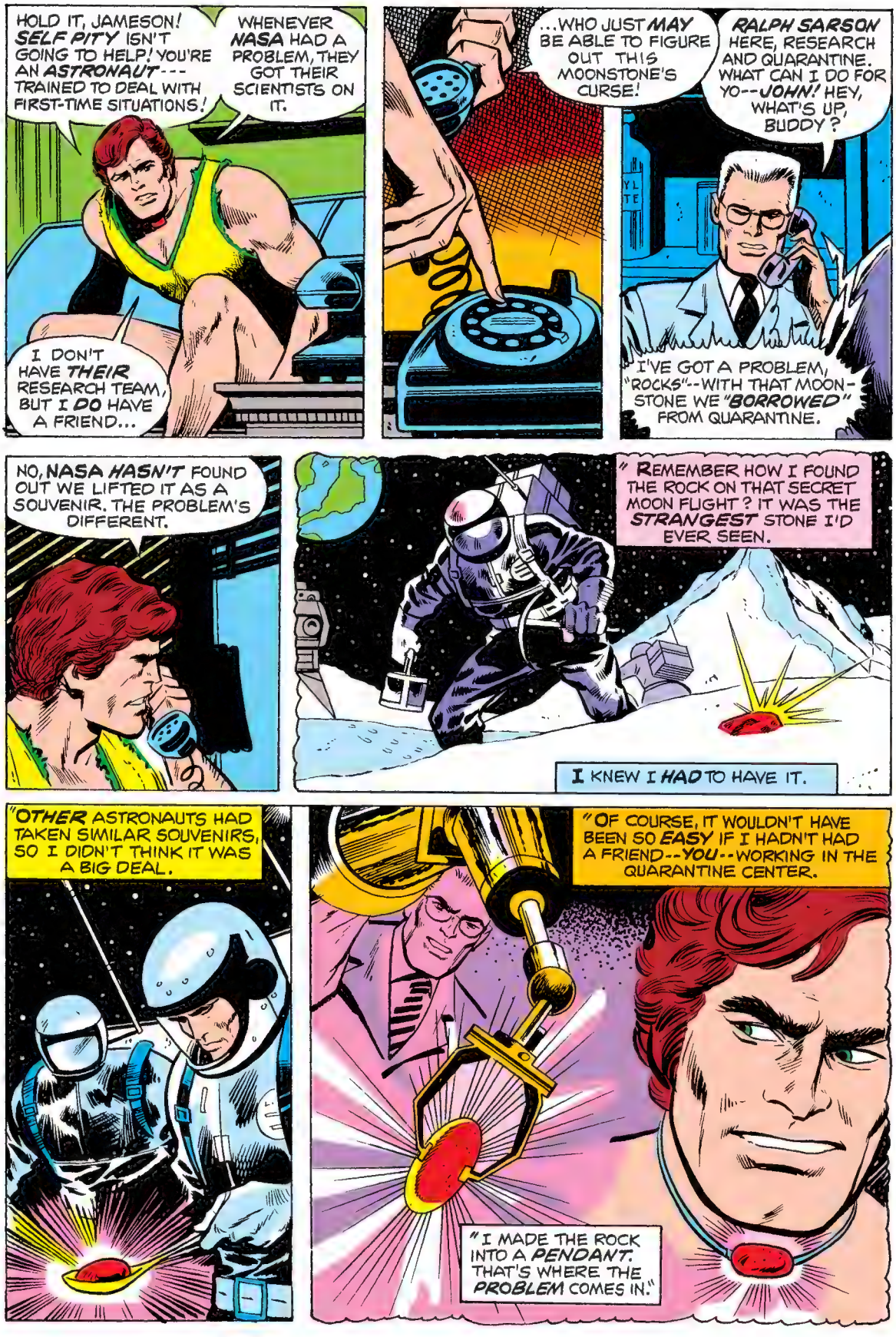
SURRENDER, WEREWOLF, ELSE WITH A FEW TWISTS OF THIS GARROTE --
ARRR
--I SHALL END YOUR MISERABLE--
NO!
THE BEAST REACTS WITH A HUMAN CUNNING!
HAH! THIS WILL MAKE THE GAME ALL THE MORE ENJOYABLE, MAN-WOLF!
ARR?
THOUGH, IN TRUTH, THE GAME HAS YET TO BEGIN!
AARRR!

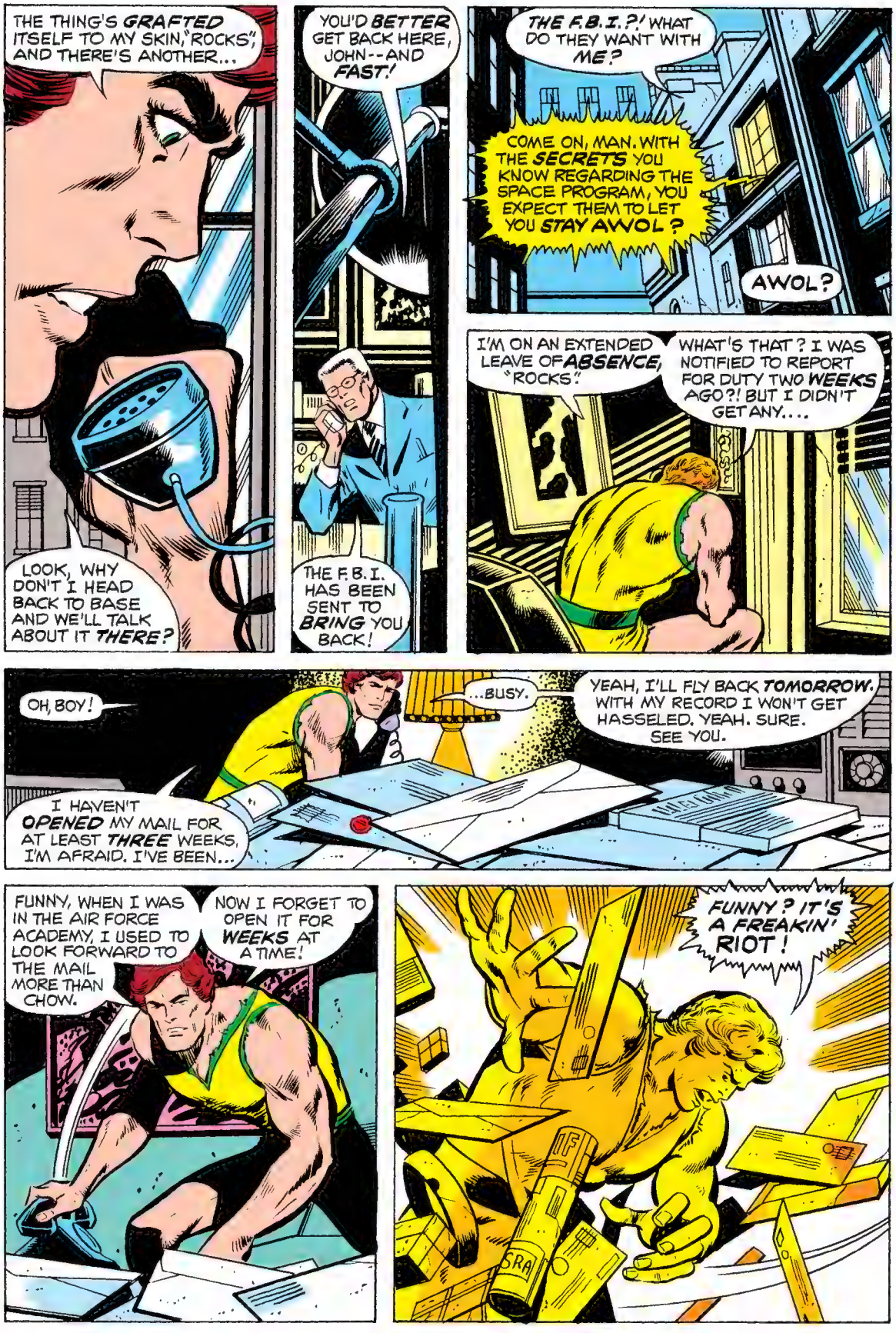

FOR YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE BUT THE FIRST KILL IN A MUCH LARGER GAME--A NECESSARY KILL IF NOTHING ELSE.
ARRR!
AND ALL YOUR COARSE GROWLINGS WON'T IMPROVE YOUR POSITION ONE IOTA--
--ONCE I FIRE MY ELECTRO-BURSTS!
ZTAK!
OOOWOOO!
THE RAYS HAVE MAGNETIZED YOUR MUSCLES--SETTING YOU UP FOR THE DEATH BLOW--
--THE BLOW THAT CAN FELL A RAMPAGING ELEPHANT!
ARRG!
SLASH!
ROWLL!
FOR A MOMENT, THEY SEEM FROZEN TO THAT SPOT...UNMOVING FRENZY SET IN A RAGE...A PORTRAIT OF MAN VS. BEAST IN WHICH NO CRITIC CAN TELL THE ONE FROM THE OTHER.
FOR A MOMENT. AND THEN...
ARRR?
AWAY!
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAUL THE GREATEST HUNTER OF ALL AS IF HE WERE A BASE NOVICE? BEWARE, WOLFMAN!
THIS DAY BELONGS TO KRAVEN!

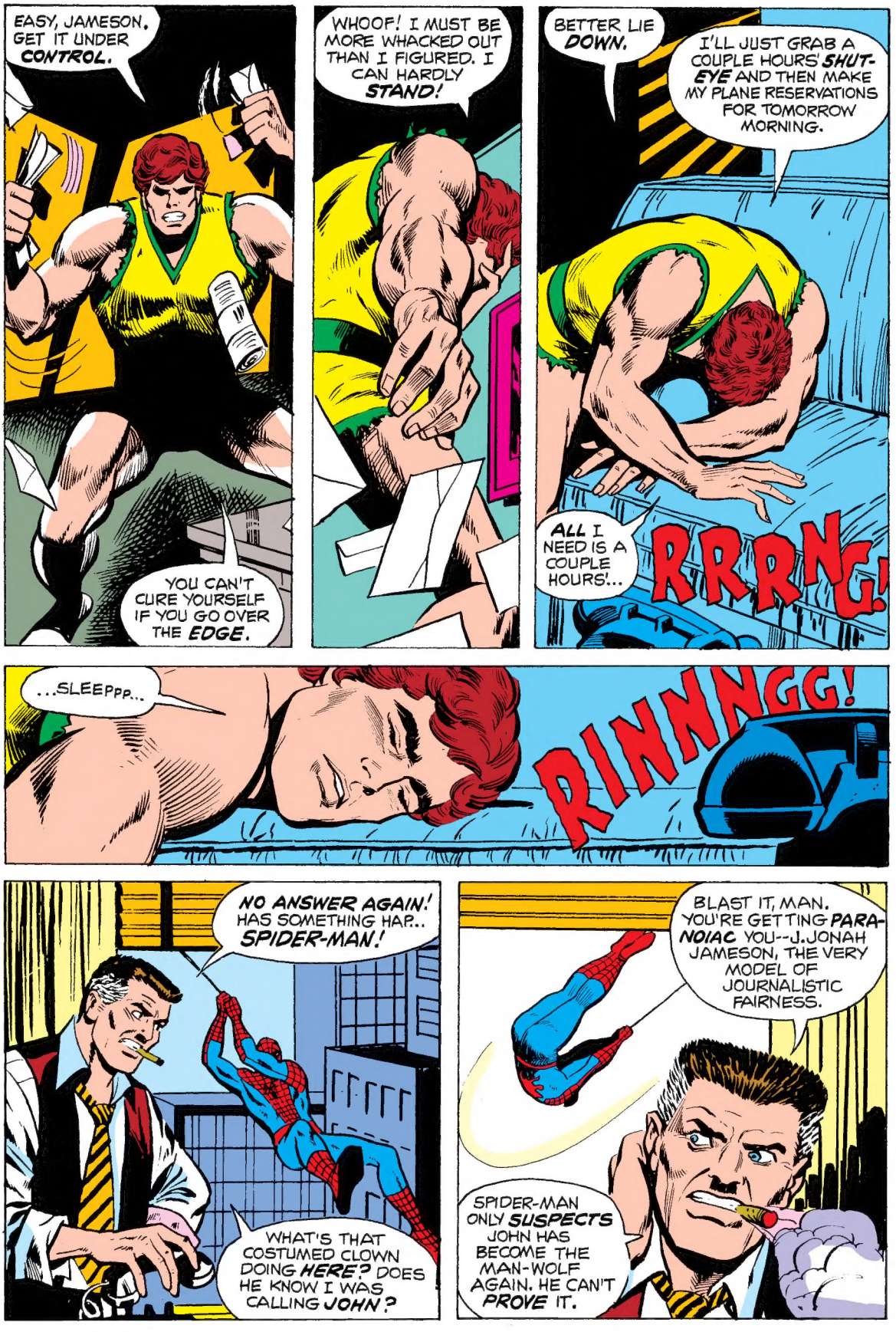

PERHAPS. BUT THE STREETS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE. IF THEY ACCEPT THAT RESPONSIBILITY.
MOST DON'T AND SO THE BATTLE RAGES.
KRISTINE WATCHES WITH MOTH-LIKE FASCINATION...EVEN AFTER HER NEIGHBORS HAVE HASTILY TURNED OUT LIGHTS AND PRETENDED NOT TO BE HOME.
KRISTINE IS NOT "NOT HOME."
SHE HAS SEEN KRAVEN AND THE MAN-WOLF AND THAT SIGHT HAS RE-AWAKENED SOME FRAGMENTS OF THE MEMORY SHOCK HAD STOLEN FROM HER.*
*GIANT-SIZE SUPER-HEROES #1.--R.T.
SHE THINKS SHE KNOWS WHO THE MAN-WOLF MUST BE: THAT AND THE DECISION SHE MUST MAKE, SCARES HER.
HOWEVER, THERE IS STRENGTH OF CHARACTER HERE. KRISTINE DECIDES...
...THAT THERE IS A TIME FOR WONDER AND A TIME FOR..
...REALITY.
HELLO. I THINK I HAVE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THAT WOLF-CREATURE YOU'VE BEEN LOOK--
WHRREEEEE
IN A ONE-ROOM STUDIO APARTMENT, KRISTINE SAUNDERS, WHO WOULD DEARLY LOVE TO BE AN ARTIST, WEEPS.

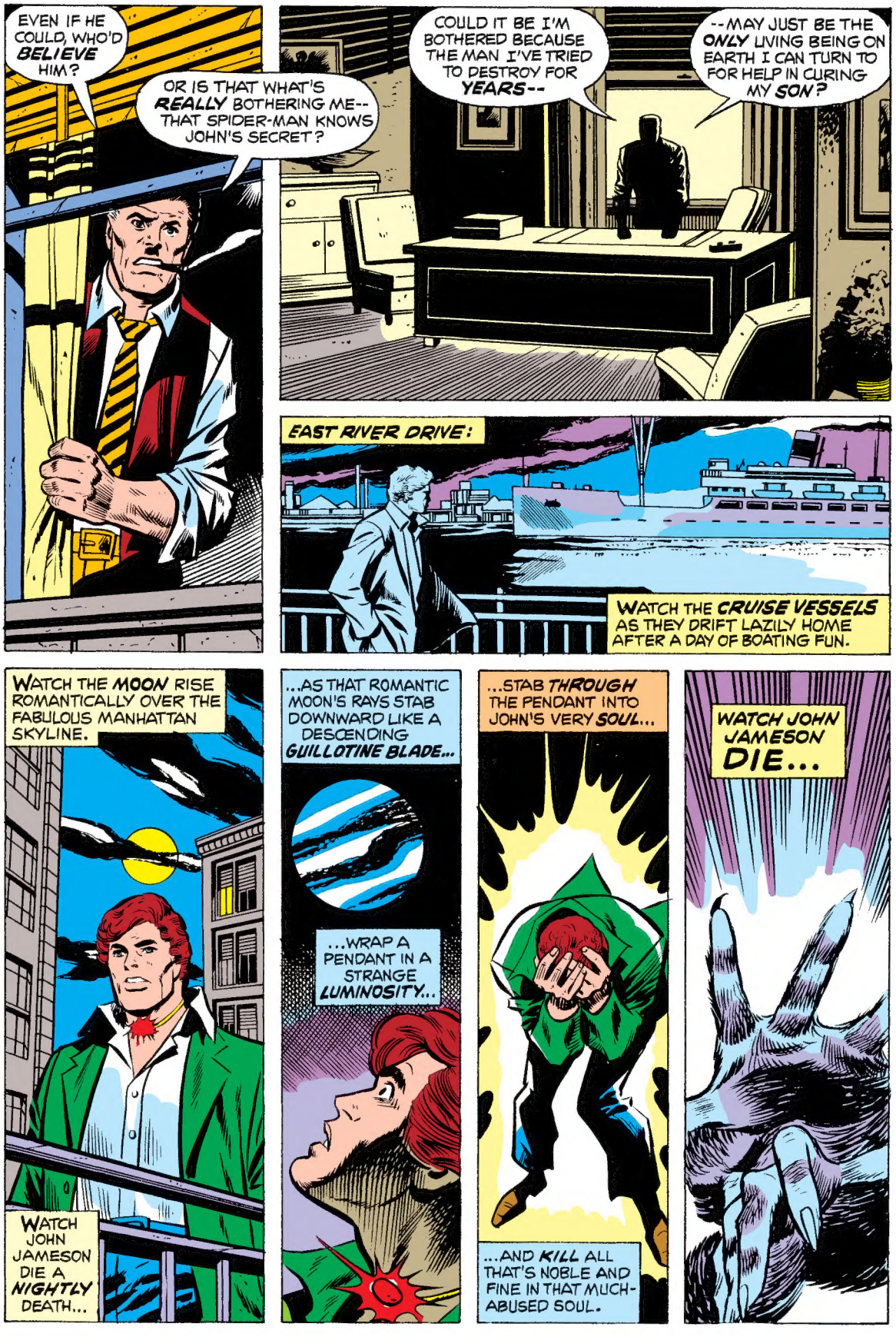

THEY ARE NOT "SUPER COPS." THEY PLOD ALONG AS BEST THEY CAN IN A SYSTEM RIFE WITH BUGS.
WHRREEE
WHREEE
SOMETIMES, THE SYSTEM LETS THEM DO THEIR JOB. SOMETIMES, THEY SHOW UP IN TIME... BEFORE ANYBODY IS HURT.
CHARLIE, WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A BONUS! LOOK WHO'S BEEN SPARRING WITH THE MAN-WOLF!
ARRR!
HOLD IT, KRAVEN! WE'VE GOT YOU.
HARDLY, MY FELLOW HUNTER!
KRAVEN DOESN'T GET HIMSELF BACKED INTO CORNERS--
--WITHOUT AFFORDING HIMSELF AN ESCAPE ROUTE!
ZING
ZING
WHA--?!
TRY TO WING HIM!
A SIMPLE ROPE-AND-PULLEY DEVICE--BUT IT GAINS ME THE ROOFTOP IN SECONDS!
THE POLICE WILL NEVER REGROUP IN TIME TO IMPEDE MY ESCAPE.
NOR WILL THEIR MEAGER NUMBERS BE ENOUGH TO RESTRAIN THE MAN-WOLF AND, ONCE HE'S FREE...
KRAVEN WILL BE WAITING!

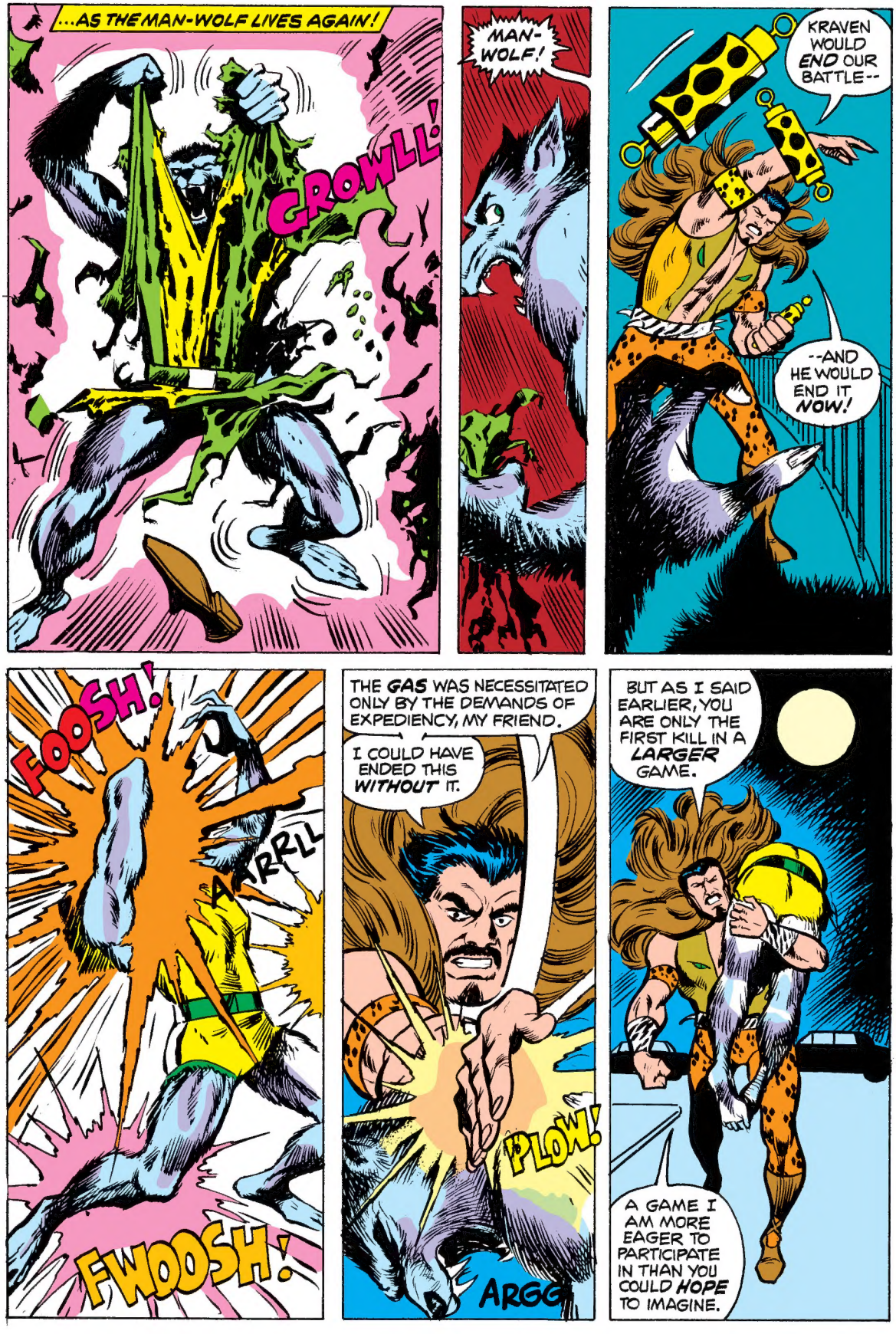

BE CAREFUL! THIS GUY ISN'T WEARING A COSTUME!
MY KNEES COULDA TOLD YOU THAT!
HE'S FOR REAL!
GRRR
LOOK OUT, ANELLO! HE'S GOING TO TRY SOMETHING!
SHOOT TO KI--- YRRGGH!
SWAK!
ROWL!
HOLY-- BLAST THAT THING!
ARRR
KRAK!
HE'S GETTING AWAY--AND TONY'S HURT BAD!
WE'LL GET 'IM, KID. 'CAUSE IF ANELLO DIES--
"--EVERY COP IN THE CITY IS GONNA WANT A PIECE OF THAT MONSTER'S HIDE."
HOURS--SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR HOURS!
WHENEVER THE MOON RISES, IT'S THE SAME CURSED THING.
A NIGHT OF TERROR AS THE MAN-WOLF--
--STUMBLING BACK TO MY APARTMENT IN THE FIRST MINUTES OF DAYLIGHT--
--AND SPENDING MOST OF THE DAY IN AN UNCONSCIOUS STUPOR! AT THIS RATE--
HOW LONG WILL IT BE UNTIL JOHN JAMESON HAS NO LIFE OF HIS OWN--
--SAVE AS THE MAN-WOLF?


HOLD IT, JAMESON! SELF PITY ISN'T GOING TO HELP! YOU'RE AN ASTRONAUT--- TRAINED TO DEAL WITH FIRST-TIME SITUATIONS!
WHENEVER NASA HAD A PROBLEM, THEY GOT THEIR SCIENTISTS ON IT.
I DON'T HAVE THEIR RESEARCH TEAM, BUT I DO HAVE A FRIEND...
...WHO JUST MAY BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THIS MOONSTONE'S CURSE!
RALPH SARSON HERE, RESEARCH AND QUARANTINE. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YO--JOHN! HEY, WHAT'S UP, BUDDY?
I'VE GOT A PROBLEM, "ROCKS"--WITH THAT MOON-STONE WE "BORROWED" FROM QUARANTINE.
NO, NASA HASN'T FOUND OUT WE LIFTED IT AS A SOUVENIR. THE PROBLEM'S DIFFERENT.
"REMEMBER HOW I FOUND THE ROCK ON THAT SECRET MOON FLIGHT? IT WAS THE STRANGEST STONE I'D EVER SEEN.
I KNEW I HAD TO HAVE IT.
"OTHER ASTRONAUTS HAD TAKEN SIMILAR SOUVENIRS, SO I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS A BIG DEAL.
"OF COURSE, IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO EASY IF I HADN'T HAD A FRIEND--YOU--WORKING IN THE QUARANTINE CENTER.
"I MADE THE ROCK INTO A PENDANT. THAT'S WHERE THE PROBLEM COMES IN."


THE THING'S GRAFTED ITSELF TO MY SKIN, "ROCKS", AND THERE'S ANOTHER...
LOOK, WHY DON'T I HEAD BACK TO BASE AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT THERE?
YOU'D BETTER GET BACK HERE, JOHN--AND FAST!
THE F.B.I. HAS BEEN SENT TO BRING YOU BACK!
THE F.B.I.?! WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH ME?
COME ON, MAN. WITH THE SECRETS YOU KNOW REGARDING THE SPACE PROGRAM, YOU EXPECT THEM TO LET YOU STAY AWOL?
AWOL?
I'M ON AN EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE, "ROCKS."
WHAT'S THAT? I WAS NOTIFIED TO REPORT FOR DUTY TWO WEEKS AGO?! BUT I DIDN'T GET ANY....
OH, BOY!
I HAVEN'T OPENED MY MAIL FOR AT LEAST THREE WEEKS, I'M AFRAID. I'VE BEEN...
...BUSY.
YEAH, I'LL FLY BACK TOMORROW. WITH MY RECORD I WON'T GET HASSELED. YEAH. SURE. SEE YOU.
FUNNY, WHEN I WAS IN THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY, I USED TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE MAIL MORE THAN CHOW.
NOW I FORGET TO OPEN IT FOR WEEKS AT A TIME!
FUNNY? IT'S A FREAKIN' RIOT!


EASY, JAMESON. GET IT UNDER CONTROL.
YOU CAN'T CURE YOURSELF IF YOU GO OVER THE EDGE.
WHOOF! I MUST BE MORE WHACKED OUT THAN I FIGURED. I CAN HARDLY STAND!
BETTER LIE DOWN.
I'LL JUST GRAB A COUPLE HOURS' SHUT-EYE AND THEN MAKE MY PLANE RESERVATIONS FOR TOMORROW MORNING.
ALL I NEED IS A COUPLE HOURS!...
RRRNG!
...SLEEPpp...
RINNNGG!
NO ANSWER AGAIN! HAS SOMETHING HAP.. SPIDER-MAN!
WHAT'S THAT COSTUMED CLOWN DOING HERE? DOES HE KNOW I WAS CALLING JOHN?
BLAST IT, MAN. YOU'RE GETTING PARANOIAC YOU--J.JONAH JAMESON, THE VERY MODEL OF JOURNALISTIC FAIRNESS.
SPIDER-MAN ONLY SUSPECTS JOHN HAS BECOME THE MAN-WOLF AGAIN. HE CAN'T PROVE IT.


EVEN IF HE COULD, WHO'D BELIEVE HIM?
OR IS THAT WHAT'S REALLY BOTHERING ME-- THAT SPIDER-MAN KNOWS JOHN'S SECRET?
COULD IT BE I'M BOTHERED BECAUSE THE MAN I'VE TRIED TO DESTROY FOR YEARS--
--MAY JUST BE THE ONLY LIVING BEING ON EARTH I CAN TURN TO FOR HELP IN CURING MY SON?
EAST RIVER DRIVE:
WATCH THE CRUISE VESSELS AS THEY DRIFT LAZILY HOME AFTER A DAY OF BOATING FUN.
WATCH THE MOON RISE ROMANTICALLY OVER THE FABULOUS MANHATTAN SKYLINE.
WATCH JOHN JAMESON DIE A NIGHTLY DEATH...
...AS THAT ROMANTIC MOON'S RAYS STAB DOWNWARD LIKE A DESCENDING GUILLOTINE BLADE...
...WRAP A PENDANT IN A STRANGE LUMINOSITY...
...STAB THROUGH THE PENDANT INTO JOHN'S VERY SOUL...
...AND KILL ALL THAT'S NOBLE AND FINE IN THAT MUCH-ABUSED SOUL.
WATCH JOHN JAMESON DIE...


...AS THE MAN-WOLF LIVES AGAIN!
GROWLL!
MAN-WOLF!
KRAVEN WOULD END OUR BATTLE--
--AND HE WOULD END IT NOW!
FOOSH!
ARRLL
FWOOSH!
THE GAS WAS NECESSITATED ONLY BY THE DEMANDS OF EXPEDIENCY, MY FRIEND.
I COULD HAVE ENDED THIS WITHOUT IT.
PLOW!
ARGG
BUT AS I SAID EARLIER, YOU ARE ONLY THE FIRST KILL IN A LARGER GAME.
A GAME I AM MORE EAGER TO PARTICIPATE IN THAN YOU COULD HOPE TO IMAGINE.

LATER...
GROWL ALL YOU WANT, MAN-WOLF!
RAWLL! RAWLL!
THOSE CHAINS WERE BUILT TO RESTRAIN EVEN MY OWN SAVAGE STRENGTH.
JUST AS THIS CHAMBER WAS SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED FOR ONE SPECIAL PRISONER--YOU!
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT YOU ARE GROWING WEAKER AND WEAKER WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT?
THIS CHAMBER WAS DESIGNED TO ABSORB THE MOON RADIATIONS THAT GIVE YOU FORM, MY LUPINE FRIEND.
MY...ASSOCIATE...WAS MOST INTERESTED IN SEEING WHAT EFFECT THE REMOVAL OF THOSE RADIATIONS--
--WOULD HAVE ON YOU--
--JOHN JAMESON!
YOU--YOU KNEW WHO I WAS ALL ALONG!
COMING YOUR WAY NEXT ISSUE:
SAFARI!!
AND GUESS WHO'S THE HUNTED!!